



FACT SHEET



Office of Worker & Community Transition

Background

The Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP) was constructed from 1951 to 1954. Uranium enrichment started in 1952 and in 1964 enrichment for weapons production ceased. On July 1, 1993, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) leased the enrichment production facilities to the newly formed United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC).

In May 2000, the PGDP experienced a reduction in its work force of 275 employees. Those reductions are expected to continue over a period of time until the plans for the Depleted Conversion Uranium Plant are formalized.

The Path to Progress

The Paducah-Area Community Reuse Organization (PACRO) was formed in August of 1997 by regional community representatives from western Kentucky and southern Illinois in an effort to mitigate potential downsizing and restructuring of the PGDP workforce as a result of the end of the Cold War and changing DOE priorities.

Membership of the PACRO is designed to represent the counties in which the majority of the PGDP workforce lives. The PACRO impact area includes McCracken, Ballard, Graves and Marshall counties in Western Kentucky and Massac County in Southern Illinois.

PACRO commissioned a study to develop and utilize programs and resources to maintain the region's economic climate. These include an Entrepreneurial Program, Existing Business and Industry, Facility Reuse, Industrial Parks, Sites, and Speculative Buildings Program, and Workforce Reuse.

Community Success Stories

- Entrepreneurial Program – The Entrepreneurial Program provides technical assistance and funding opportunities for applicable small businesses and entrepreneurial start-up projects.



Loan Recipient (Steak-Out)



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This Program may assist in financing a start-up or an expansion through a Business Discovery Loan and/or a "Gap" Revolving Loan and both loans have specific set-aside amounts targeted to PGDP employees and immediate family members. The Program also provides assistance through financial counseling, workshops, and technical support services. This program has created 45 jobs.

- **Existing Business and Industry Program** – The Existing Business and Industry Program is designed to encourage the creation of effective business and industry programs by investing dollars earmarked for this effort in each of the five PACRO impact counties. This Program also will establish an Existing Business and Industry Retention and Expansion Council to help identify existing business needs and opportunities.

- **Facility Reuse Program** – The Facility Reuse Program is designed to identify assets on-site at the PGDP that could be used to benefit both the plant workforce and the community. Such assets include buildings, land equipment, infrastructure, nickel ingots, aluminum ingots, scrap ferrous metals, and depleted uranium hexafluoride cylinders. This program is assisting in the partnering of private enterprise, DOE, and local and state government in the removal of fluorine cells from the PGDP. Disposition of this equipment at no cost to DOE represents a significant benefit to the government estimated at \$2.5 million in avoided cost.

- **The Industrial Parks, Sites and Speculative Buildings Program** – The Industrial Parks, Sites and Speculative Buildings Program invests money in each of the five PACRO counties in order to assist in the development of a product marketable to industry. Funds can be used to acquire land, develop infrastructure, or construct speculative buildings. Related to this, the PACRO is providing matching funds to the existing Regional Marketing Group in order to assist them in marketing the product being created. Additionally, PACRO is investing funds in the initial tasks necessary for the creation of a regional industrial park. This program has created/retained 215 jobs.



Mayfield/Graves County Local
Development Corporation



Ballard County Economic &
Industrial Development Board



Paducah McCracken Industrial
Development Authority Spec Building



Marshall County/Benton Interlocal
Industrial Authority

- **Workforce Reuse Program** – The Workforce Reuse Program is designed to coordinate training and re-employment assistance to workers at the PGDP. This assistance includes identifying: (1) the job skills that will be needed by industry in the future; (2) the job skills of the current workforce; and, (3) the training available to meet those needs. Also included in this program is a database developed through a Workforce Skills Assessment Survey of the PGDP workforce that is being maintained by PACE, Local 5-550. The primary purpose of this database is to serve as a job referral mechanism for PGDP workers. This database can be used in the years ahead as jobs migrate to clean up. This program has created/retained 111 jobs.

Contact Information

For more information on these projects or the Office of Worker and Community Transition, please access the www.pacro.org or contact:

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